

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 174845

61

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE

8/31/73

APPROVED BY NEA:MR. DAVIES

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

S/S - MR. GAMMON

----- 113649

O 312356Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 174845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR: SA, US

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO KING FAISAL

1. AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED DELIVER TEXT OF FOLLOWING
LETTER DATED AUGUST 31, 1973 FROM THE PRESIDENT TO HIS
MAJESTY KING FAISAL. SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED.

BEGIN QUOTE: YOUR MAJESTY: AS YOUR MAJESTY IS AWARE, I HAVE
RECENTLY COMPLETED EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL
SECRETARY BREZHNEV AND WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN. THESE
DISCUSSIONS NATURALLY TOUCHED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON THE
SITUATION IN YOUR REGION OF THE WORLD. BECAUSE OF SAUDI
ARABIA'S IMPORTANCE AS A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, I
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR MAJESTY MY PRESENT THOUGHTS
ON THESE MATTERS WHICH I KNOW ARE ALSO OF GREAT CONCERN TO
YOU.

WE ARE AGREED, I AM CERTAIN, THAT A STRONG, STABLE AND
SECURE SAUDI ARABIA IS ESSENTIAL TO THE STABILITY OF THE
ARABIAN PENINSULA AREA. I CAN ASSURE YOUR MAJESTY OF THE
CONSTANCY OF OUR STRONG INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIA'S SECURITY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 174845

AND WELFARE. OUR RECENT STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO
SELL F-4 PHANTOM AIRCRAFT WHENEVER YOUR AIR FORCE IS READY
TO RECEIVE THEM IS, AS YOUR MAJESTY KNOWS, ONLY ONE PART OF

OUR CONTINUING SECURITY PROGRAMS IN SAUDI ARABIA DESIGNED TO HELP MODERNIZE AND FULLY EQUIP THE KINGDOM'S ARMED FORCES.

AS A COMPLEMENT TO OUR DIRECT CONCERN FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S OWN SECURITY AND WELFARE, WE ARE KEENLY AWARE THAT THIS SECURITY IS ENHANCED WHEN THE STABILITY OF NEIGHBORING STATES IS ASSURED. THIS IS WHY WE VALUE COOPERATION WITH YOUR MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN EFFORTS TO SUPPORT NORTH YEMEN AND OMAN IN THE FACE OF COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED SUBVERSION. WE HAVE NOTED PRINCE SULTAN'S RECENT PLEDGE THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF ITS SMALLER NEIGHBORS IN THE GULF. THE ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA IN HELPING THE STATES ON ITS BORDERS TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE, AND THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO DO WHAT IT CAN IN HELPING TO STRENGTHEN THE KINGDOM IN THIS ROLE. YOUR MAJESTY'S LEADERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL IN THIS EFFORT.

BEYOND THE PENINSULA ITSELF, I BELIEVE WE ARE AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AMONG ALL THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY NOT ONLY OF THE PENINSULA BUT OF THE AREA SURROUNDING IT. AS YOUR MAJESTY KNOWS, OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH JORDAN AND IRAN AND OUR NEW COOPERATION WITH KUWAIT ARE DIRECTED TO THIS GOAL. IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT, TOO, THAT THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES YOUR MAJESTY'S CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND HAS AGREED THAT THE REDUCTION IN THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN EGYPT WAS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

IN ADDITION TO OUR DIRECT CONCERN FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S SECURITY AND WELFARE, WE ALSO ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING STATES OF YOUR REGION TO ASSURE A RELIABLE FLOW OF ENERGY TO OIL-IMPORTING COUNTRIES. WE ARE AWARE OF YOUR CONCERN, FIRST CONVEYED BY YOUR MAJESTY'S PETROLEUM MINISTER, SHAYKH AHMAD ZAKI

SECRET
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 174845

YAMANI, THAT CONTINUED TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD AFFECT SAUDI ARABIA'S ABILITY TO FULFILL ITS UNIQUE ROLE IN MEETING WORLD ENERGY NEEDS. WE ARE ALSO FULLY AWARE OF SAUDI ARABIA'S DESIRE TO USE ITS GROWING OIL INCOME TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY AND TO FIND PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENTS.

WE SEE SAUDI ARABIA ON THE THRESHOLD OF A PERIOD OF GREAT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AND I BELIEVE AMERICAN TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL EXPERIENCE COULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR OBJECTIVES. IT IS VITAL FOR THE STABILITY OF SAUDI ARABIA AND OF THE REGION

THAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS PROCEED UNINTERRUPTED, AND I AM PLEASED THAT A NUMBER OF AMERICAN FIRMS ARE STUDYING POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES WHICH WOULD HELP DIVERSIFY

SAUDI ARABIA'S ECONOMY AND MAKE USE OF AVAILABLE ENERGY AND OTHER RESOURCES. WE ARE GIVING THESE COMPANIES EVERY APPROPRIATE ENCOURAGEMENT.

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS, OF COURSE, CENTRAL TO THE STABILITY AND PROGRESS OF THE ENTIRE AREA. THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE UNITED STATES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WOULD FACILITATE THE COMMON PURSUIT OF THE INTERESTS WE SHARE WITH OUR FRIENDS IN THE AREA, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS CRUCIAL TO THE STRUCTURE OF GLOBAL PEACE THAT WE HAVE BEEN STRIVING TO BUILD. AS YOUR MAJESTY KNOWS, THE UNITED STATES IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PROGRESS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST MAY BE POSSIBLE. THIS REQUIRES FIRST OF ALL THAT THE CEASEFIRE BE MAINTAINED, SINCE A RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES WOULD GRAVELY DAMAGE THE PROSPECTS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. I HAVE APPRECIATED YOUR MAJESTY'S EFFORTS TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT SADAT THE NEED FOR CONTINUED RESTRAINT IN THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD.

SECOND, WE BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN PROMOTING PEACE BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL. WE BELIEVE WE CAN WORK MOST EFFECTIVELY THROUGH PRIVATE, BUT PERSISTENT, DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH ALL PARTIES. THIS PROCESS REQUIRES PATIENCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 174845

AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERESTS OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED. AT TIMES, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR CAPACITY TO TAKE AN EFFECTIVE PART IN THESE PRIVATE EXCHANGES, WE ARE OBLIGED TO REFRAIN FROM ADOPTING PUBLIC POSITIONS, AS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE OUR ROLE. I REALIZE THAT THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR OUR ARAB FRIENDS TO UNDERSTAND. AS OUR MOST RECENT VOTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEMONSTRATES, HOWEVER, WE SEEK TO ADOPT POSITIONS AT ALL TIMES CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR POLICY RESTS. I CAN ASSURE YOUR MAJESTY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS EVERY INTEREST IN HELPING BRING ABOUT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

AS YOU KNOW, UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM HAS INDICATED HIS READINESS TO ENGAGE HIMSELF MORE ACTIVELY IN THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. MY GOVERNMENT HAS BOTH WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE WANT TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOUR MAJESTY AS THIS SITUATION DEVELOPS.

IT IS MY STRONG HOPE THAT IN THE PERIOD AHEAD WE CAN
FIND WAYS TO CONTINUE TO WORK EVEN MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER
TO ADVANCE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS AND TO PROMOTE PEACE,
STABILITY, AND ORDERLY PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AS
WE DEVELOP NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION, WHICH REAFFIRM THE
CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WE CAN
CONTINUE TO ADVANCE THESE IMPORTANT GOALS. SINCERELY,
RICHARD NIXON. END QUOTE.

2. XGDS.

ROGERS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, NATIONAL SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE174845
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750011-0144
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730869/abqceilh.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO KING FAISAL
TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, (FAISAL)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005